AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (**Currently Amended**) A dental assembly, comprising: a ceramic spacer and an adapter for securing ~~the positions of~~ the spacer in a lateral direction and a ~~direction of~~ rotational direction relative to an implant, said adapter comprising a first portion configured to cooperate with the spacer and a second portion ~~portions wherein the adapter is~~ configured to cooperate with the ~~spacer and~~ the implant~~, respectively,~~ to secure the spacer relative to the implant, the first portion defining a geometry which exceeds a geometry of a corresponding recess in the spacer when the first portion is not inserted into the recess of the spacer, the first portion comprising parts that are moved resiliently inwardly when the first portion is inserted into the recess of the spacer, [[and]] wherein the adapter is completely enclosed by the spacer and the implant when the spacer is ~~in its position~~ fitted on the implant, ~~the adapter is completely enclosed by the spacer and the implant,~~ and wherein the first portion of the adapter additionally comprises at least one slit configured to give the first portion resilient properties to secure the adapter to the spacer.

2. (**Currently Amended**) The dental assembly as in claim 1, wherein the spacer, with the adapter applied to it, bears via a bottom surface against a top surface of the implant, and wherein the adapter enclosed in the spacer and the implant is exposed to [[the]] outsides of the spacer and of the implant only via a gap located between the bottom and top surfaces of the spacer and implant, and wherein the assembly comprises a locking screw for securing the spacer to the implant.

3. (**Previously Presented**) The dental assembly as in claim 1 wherein the first portion has a length of about 1/3 to about 1/5 of the total length of the adapter, and wherein the spacer has a ~~coned~~ cone shaped portion with an outer surface facing ~~directed towards~~ the implant and which has a height which is about 1/3 to 1/5 of the total height of the spacer.

4. (**Canceled**)

5. (**Previously Presented**) The dental assembly as in claim 1, wherein said at least one slit extends along the whole extent of the first portion and into parts of the second portion.

6. (**Currently Amended**) The dental assembly as in claim [[4]] 1, wherein said at least one slit extends along about half of the total length of the adapter.

7. (**Previously Presented**) The dental assembly as in claim 1, wherein the first portion has a polygonal external cross section.

8. (**Currently Amended**) The dental assembly as in claim 20, wherein the contact surfaces of the spacer comprise interior corners of a recess of the spacer ~~penetrating parts comprise of the corners of a polygon which are deformed in rounded corners in a corresponding configuration in the spacer~~.

9. (**Currently Amended**) The dental assembly as in claim 20, wherein the penetrating parts comprise projecting parts~~, for~~ which are deformed against an opposite surface in the spacer.

10. (**Currently Amended**) The dental assembly as in claim 1, wherein the second portion comprises outwardly projecting members configured to ~~fix it in the direction of~~ generally restrict rotation of the second portion relative to the implant.

11. (**Previously Presented**) The dental assembly as in claim 10, wherein in cross section, the outwardly projecting members comprise substantially semicircular members which can be placed opposite corresponding recesses in the implant.

12. (**Currently amended**) The dental assembly as in claim 11, wherein the second portion comprises three outwardly projecting members that ~~are three in number and~~ are uniformly distributed about the circumference.

13. (**Currently Amended**) The dental assembly as in claim 12, wherein the at least one slit extends through at least one of said projecting members.

14. (**Currently Amended**) The dental assembly as in claim 1, wherein the spacer and the adapter are ~~configured such that they can be released from one another in the assembled state and can be joined again to one another spacer or adapter~~ removably attachable to one another.

15. (**Currently Amended**) The dental assembly as in claim 1, wherein when the spacer is in its position fitted on the implant, the adapter takes up a position which is substantially unaffected in the longitudinal direction of the adapter.

16. (**Previously Presented**) The dental assembly as in claim 1, wherein when the adapter is in a position enclosed by the spacer and by the implant, the adapter cannot be acted upon in the longitudinal direction of the adapter and cannot be acted upon by lateral forces or bending forces.

17. (**Previously Presented**) The dental assembly as in claim 1, wherein the adaptor includes penetrating parts that are configured such that when the adapter and the spacer are

joined together, a deformation occurs in material contact surfaces between the adaptor and the spacer.

18. (**Previously Presented**) The dental assembly as in claim 1, wherein the adapter includes a plurality of slits.

19. (**Previously Presented**) The dental assembly as in claim 1, wherein the at least one slit extends in a longitudinal direction with respect to the adapter.

20. (**Currently Amended**) A dental assembly comprising a ceramic spacer and an adapter for securing ~~the positions of~~ the spacer in a lateral direction and a rotational direction ~~of rotation~~ relative to an implant, said adapter comprising a first portion and a second portion ~~portions wherein the adapter is~~ configured to cooperate with the spacer and the implant~~,~~ respectively, to secure the spacer relative to the implant, [[and]] wherein the adapter is completely enclosed by the spacer and the implant when the spacer is ~~in its position~~ fitted on the implant, ~~the adapter is completely enclosed by the spacer and the implant, and in that~~ the first portion of the adapter ~~is additionally comprises with~~ comprising penetrating parts ~~which are configured to deform when the adapter and the spacer are joined together~~, the penetrating parts comprising corners of a polygon configured to deform against contact surfaces of the spacer when the adapter and the spacer are joined together.

21. (**New**) A dental assembly, comprising: a ceramic spacer and an adapter for securing the spacer in a lateral direction and a rotational direction relative to an implant, said adapter comprising a first portion configured to cooperate with the spacer and a second portion configured to cooperate with the implant to secure the spacer relative to the implant, wherein the adapter is completely enclosed by the spacer and the implant when the spacer is fitted on the implant and wherein the second portion comprises outwardly projecting members configured to restrict rotation of the second portion relative to the implant and the first portion of the adapter comprises at least one slit configured to give the first portion resilient properties to secure the adapter to the spacer.

22. (**New**) The dental assembly as in claim 21, wherein said at least one slit extends along the whole extent of the first portion and into parts of the second portion.

23. (**New**) The dental assembly as in claim 21, wherein said at least one slit extends along about half of the total length of the adapter.

24. (**New**) The dental assembly as in claim 21, wherein in cross section, the outwardly projecting members comprise substantially semicircular members which can be placed opposite corresponding recesses in the implant.

25. (**New**) The dental assembly as in claim 21, wherein the second portion comprises three outwardly projecting members that are uniformly distributed about the circumference of the second portion.

26. (**New**) The dental assembly as in claim 21, wherein the at least one slit extends through at least one of said projecting members.